

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2428

ANSWERED ON:14.12.2015

Forced Child Labour

Chandrappa Shri B.N.;Chowdhary Shri Pankaj;Vichare Shri Rajan Baburao

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether children are being forced to work as child labourers in dhabas, restaurants, etc. for earning livelihood due to poverty;
- (b) if so, the details and number of child labourers as on date, State/UT-wise including Maharashtra;
- (c) whether the Government has studied the factors that forced the children to work as child labour and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to provide necessary facilities such as housing to the families of the child labour to earn their livelihood and provide better education to children as an initiative to eliminate child labour;
- (e) if so, the details in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (f) the details of action taken against employers of child labour along with the other steps to completely eliminate child labour in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (IC) FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
(SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a) & (b): As per 2001 Census, 70,934 children were found employed in the Dhabas/ Restaurants/ Hotels/ Motels. The occupation wise data is not available from Census 2011. The number of main workers in the age group of 5 to 14 years as per 2011 Census, State/UT-wise including Maharashtra is given at Annexure.

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(c) to (e): Child Labour is an outcome of various socio-economic problems such as poverty, economic backwardness and illiteracy. Considering the nature of the problem of child labour, Government is following a multi-pronged strategy. It comprises of statutory and legislative measures, rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work through specific scheme and universal elementary education along with convergence with other schemes for socio-economic development.

Government is also implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme under which children rescued/ withdrawn from work in the age group of 9-14 years are enrolled in the NCLP Special Training Centres, where they are provided with bridge education, vocational training, mid day meal, stipend, health care etc. before mainstreaming into formal education system. Children in the age group of 5-8 years are directly linked to the formal education system through a close coordination with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (SSA).

(f): As per the information received from the States, the total number of Prosecutions under Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 during the last three years i.e. 2012, 2013 and 2014 are 4,731, 4,899 and 3,340 respectively.

Further, a Bill to amend the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 has been introduced in Rajya Sabha in 2012. The Government has decided to move Official Amendments to the Amendment Bill. The Official Amendments along with the Amendment Bill, inter-alia, covers complete prohibition on employment of children below 14 years, linking the age of prohibition with the age under Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. The Bill also provides for creation of a Child and Adolescent Labour Rehabilitation Fund for rehabilitation of child and adolescent.

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